

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

NOVEMBER 9, 2005

PRESENT: Rick Cleary, Laura Sherman, John Luginbuhl, Anna Sanko (arr. 7:07 pm), Eric Santini and Alternates Tim Olmsted, Laurie Fiore (arr. 7:08 pm) and Lori Holden

ABSENT: None

STAFF

PRESENT: Reanna Goodreau, Recording Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Cleary called the Economic Development Commission meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

III. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tax Abatement Application: Soapstone Valley Equipment, Inc.—450 Somers Road

Chairman Cleary reviewed the application with the commission. He explained that the commission must decide if this application should move forward to the subcommittee. He noted that this is not a targeted business. The commission requested that the applicant come to the next meeting to discuss the application and provide additional information.

CONTINUED TO THE DECEMBER 14, 2005 MEETING.

2. Update on MetroHartford Alliance CEDS project

Reanna Goodreau explained that the Town Planner had attended a meeting regarding the CEDS project. She distributed information about the project from the CEDS website. Ms. Goodreau noted that the Planner would provide additional information at their next meeting.

CONTINUED TO THE DECEMBER 14, 2005 MEETING.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. CEDAS: Camera Friendly Communities—Update

Commissioners Sanko and Sherman stated that they need to download the pictures they have taken of Ellington onto the CEDAS website. They are also looking into using pictures from the calendar contest. They will continue to take pictures of town to add to the website.

CONTINUED TO THE DECEMBER 14, 2005 MEETING.

2. Farm Initiatives—Update

Commissioner Sherman explained that John Hoffman from the Farmers Market was supposed to be at last months meeting, but it was cancelled. She stated that there are 13 vendors committed for next year. When the First Selectman asked what the market needed for assistance from the Town, he was told that signage along Route 140 and clearly marked handicapped accessible parking were the only two items. Chairman Cleary suggested that Mr. Hoffman come to an EDC meeting to see if the EDC can assist with obtaining the sign.

CONTINUED TO THE DECEMBER 14, 2005 MEETING.

3. Business Survey—Update

Reanna Goodreau explained that the EDC has received 31 responses to the survey. Chairman Cleary requested assistance in reviewing and summarizing the results. Commissioner Holden volunteered to review the surveys and discuss them at the December meeting.

CONTINUED TO THE DECEMBER 14, 2005 MEETING.

4. Tax Abatement Policies/Procedures—Update

Chairman Cleary reviewed the First Selectman's comments. The commission agreed that packaging would fall under manufacturing and also agreed to add agriculture as a targeted industry. They discussed their goal of bringing a medical facility to town and agreed that medical facilities should be a targeted business.

MOVED (OLMSTED), SECONDED (SHERMAN) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADD AGRICULTURE & MEDICAL FACILITIES TO THE TARGETED BUSINESSES OF THE TAX ABATEMENT PROGRAM.

MOVED (LUGINBUHL), SECONDED (SANTINI) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO INCORPORATE CHANGES TO THE TAX ABATEMENT POLICY AS RECOMMENDED BY THE FIRST SELECTMAN. THOSE CHANGES INCLUDE: UNDER APPLICATION PROCESS, 5TH PARAGRAPH, 3RD SENTENCE—CHANGING “SHE WILL FORWARD IT” TO IT WILL BE FORWARDED”; UNDER APPLICATION PROCESS, 6TH PARAGRAPH, 2ND SENTENCE—REMOVING “SPECIAL”; AND UNDER APPLICATION PROCESS, 6TH PARAGRAPH, 4TH SENTENCE—ADDING “OR DESIGNEE” AFTER “THE EDC CHAIRMAN.”

CONTINUED TO THE DECEMBER 14, 2005 MEETING.

5. Formation of Medical Business Subcommittee

Chairman Cleary asked for volunteers to serve on the subcommittee. Commissioners Olmsted, Sanko, and Fiore volunteered.

T. OLMSTED, A. SANKO, & L. FIORE AGREED TO BE ON THE MEDICAL BUSINESS SUBCOMMITTEE.

6. Review of the Economic Development Chapter of the Current Plan of Conservation & Development & Zoning Regulations

Chairman Cleary asked about the status of the Plan of Conservation & Development (C&D Plan) update. Ms. Goodreau explained that she had spoken with Bruce Hoben of Planimetrics to find out the status and was told that he has not heard from the First Selectman regarding the C&D Plan update. The commission asked for staff to check with the First Selectman's Office regarding the status of the update.

CONTINUED TO THE DECEMBER 14, 2005 MEETING.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. FY 2006-07 Capital Improvements Budget Requests

BY CONSENSUS, THE COMMISSION AGREED THAT THERE WERE NO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ITEMS TO REQUEST.

2. Set 2006 Meeting Schedule

MOVED (SHERMAN), SECONDED (LUGINBUHL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE 2006 MEETING SCHEDULE.

3. Approval of the August 17, 2005 Meeting Minutes

MOVED (OLMSTED), SECONDED (LUGINBUHL) AND PASSED (ABSTAINED: E. SANTINI, L. FIORE, & L. HOLDEN) TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 17, 2005 MEETING MINUTES.

4. Correspondence:

- a. Letter to Rick Cleary from John O'Toole re: QuickTracts, dated 9/22/05

Reanna Goodreau explained that this is the program that the commission decided not to pursue last year because it is labor intensive. Chairman Cleary requested that staff coordinate with the Assessor to see if this type of information is readily available.

- b. Letter to Dennis Milanovich from Robert Phillips re: Land Use Fees, dated 10/17/05

Reanna Goodreau explained that the commission might be interested in reviewing the proposed fee changes as this might impact businesses interested in coming to Ellington and existing businesses looking to expand. The commission did not believe it was under their purview to comment on this.

- c. HartfordBusinessJournal, 2005 Metro Hartford Market Guide
- d. The Regional Review, September/October 2005

ITEMS C & D, SO NOTED.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED (SANTINI), SECONDED (LUGINBUHL) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:58 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Reanna Goodreau
Recording Secretary